FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 AUGUST 1984

Lebanon

Security Situation — Regarding the fire "demonstrators" had set to the Saudi Consulate in Beirut, the Saudi representation in Lebanon issued a statement, transmitted by SPA, in which Saudi Arabia "strongly" denounced the attack and affirmed that the incident will not affect the "sound line" of Saudi policy. The statement added that Saudi King Fahd had requested Saudi officials in Lebanon to ensure the comfort of pilgrims before the attack occurred. In a related development, King Fahd ordered Saudi authorities on 24 August to grant entry visas to 6,000 Lebanese pilgrims who wish to travel to Saudi Arabia, Beirut radio noted.

Al-Hakim Funeral — In a speech broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio at the funeral of Major General Nadim al-Hakim, killed in a helicopter crash on 23 August, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt claimed that the "martyrdom" was an attempt to keep nationalist influence out of the military establishment. He asserted that he will not accept anything short of "arming the nationalist brigades," and that he will not accept the presence of the Lebanese Army in the "nationalist areas" of the mountain. Linking the expansion of the security agreements to the mountain area with the liberation of the south are "mean and despicable attempts" by the "rancorous" regime, a regime to which he does not belong and will not belong, he added. Meanwhile, the committee investigating the helicopter crash has confirmed that the incident occurred because of poor visibility in fog rather than an explosion on board, according to committee sources cited by the Voice of Lebanon.

Pakistan-DRA

The third round of UN-sponsored indirect talks on the Afghanistan problem began in Geneva on 24 August, Karachi radio noted. UN Under Secretary General Diego Cordovez was scheduled to meet with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan after meeting with Ali Khan's Afghan counterpart Shah Mohammad Dost. Referring to the recent claims of territorial violations, Cordovez stated that it will be "regrettable" if the "present difficult situation" in the region is allowed to influence the diplomatic process, the radio added.

Hijacked Plane

The seven Sikhs who hijacked an Indian plane on 24 August surrendered in Dubai on 25 August, Dubayy radio reported citing WAM. The hijackers have been granted political asylum in the UAE for 1 week while awaiting their request for U.S. asylum, the radio added. However, according to Muscat radio, the UAE denied that it has granted temporary political asylum to the hijackers.

Maghreb

Syrian President's Visit — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi in Algiers on 25 and 26 August and discussed "bilateral and general Arab issues" during a "working and friendly visit," Algiers radio reported. The Syrian delegation had earlier visited Libyan leaders 23-25 August, SANA added. While in Algiers, the Syrian delegation also met with SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz during his stopover on 26 August, Algiers radio noted.

Libya-Tunisia — Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and his Libyan counterpart 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki signed a cooperation protocol in Tunis on 24 August following talks held in a "fraternal atmosphere" with a "constructive and positive spirit," Tunis radio reported. In a related development, Essebsi disclosed that Libya has requested to join the agreement of fraternity and accord that was signed between Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania, MENA noted. Essebsi also affirmed that Tunisia's agreement with the other two states does not indicate that Tunisia is against the Libya-Morocco accord, but rather that Tunisia "blesses" it.

Red Sea Mines

All ships intending to cross the Suez Canal must now submit a detailed manifest of their cargo 48 hours before entering the canal, MENA reported citing the Canal Authority's chairman. He added that penalties will be imposed on ships carrying explosives which are discovered before they cross the canal, and vessels discovered to be carrying "undeclared dangerous materials" inside the canal will be banned from further passage for 2 years. He disclosed that inspections have been carried out on all "suspect ships" and that no dangerous materials have been discovered. He affirmed that the inspections are not aimed at any particular ship or nationality.

Concerning these new measures, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in his Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio's Arabic service that Egypt "treacherously detained" two Iranian ships on the "pretext" of searching them. He stated that Egypt must be warned so it will not again take stands in the future that aid Western imperialism's exploitation of the "terrible and artificially provoked events" in the area. He also accused the "oppressors" of exploiting a "remark by an irresponsible person" that was "accidently broadcast" by the radio.

Meanwhile, the French minesweepers off the Saudi coast ended their mission on 26 August after failing to find any mines, Paris radio noted.

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No 'Substantial' Response to Strike Call

BK251613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 84

[Text] Life has remained normal in most parts of the country today despite the protest day called by the opposition parties against the dismissal of the N.T. Rama Rao ministry in Andhra Pradesh. There has been no substantial response to the call. In the capital, life was normal. Offices, shops and establishments functioned as usual.

In Andhra Pradesh, no untoward incident has been reported. Our Hyderabad correspondent reports that shops, establishments, banks, and central and state government offices functioned normally. Some trains were withdrawn by the railway authority as a precautionary measure.

In Karnataka, the day was declared a holiday by the state government and it passed off peacefully. Police protection was given to some central government establishments. Our Bangalore correspondent reports that a workers procession was taken to Raj Bhavan [governor house] where they submitted a memorandum. Our Hubli correspondent reports that running of trains was normal, according to South-Central Railway authorities, though a few passenger trains were delayed. In Tamil Nadu also, the state government declared a public holiday as a precautionary measure. The day passed off peacefully. However, several arrests were made of demonstrators who tried to picket in front of central government offices.

In Kerala, shops remained closed in several districts. Obstructions were placed on the rail track at several places. Consequently, some trains were delayed.

In West Bengal, a bundh [strike] was observed mainly in support of several demands of the state government. The chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, said the bundh was complete. According to agency reports, about 1,500 Congress-I supporters courted arrest at three different places of Calcutta to protest against what they described as politically motivated bundh.

AFP: Strike Activities, Arrests

BK251348 Hong Kong AFP in English 1320 GMT 25 Aug 84

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Aug 25 (AFP) — About 10,000 people were arrested when they tried to picket government offices in Madras today during a nationwide strike to protest the dismissal of the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Several people were injured and more than 10,000 rail passengers stranded in Marxist-ruled West Bengal state during the protest, PTI said.

There were demonstrations and violence in other parts of India as well, though many areas appeared calm, PTI said.

PTI quoted West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu as saying that the strike in his state was "a total success." The one-day strike, intended to be nationwide, was called by opposition parties who say the federal government was behind the sacking on August 16 of N.T. Rama Rao by Andhra Pradesh Governor Ram Lal.

In Hyderabad, capital of Andhra Pradesh, about 150 demonstrators, including two opposition Bharativa Janata Party state legislators, were arrested near the government secretariat when they held a pro-Rama Rao demonstration, PTI said.

Supporters and opponents of the strike clashed in the Hooghly and 24-Parganas districts of West Bengal. Demonstrators there also blocked trains by squatting on the tracks, PTI said.

Among the some 10,000 who were arrested there were two members of the Indian Parliament and 10 State Assembly members belonging to the opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Party, PTI said.

In Tripura, another Marxist-ruled state in the northeast, about 8,000 people marched through Agartala, the capital. There was no violence, PTI said.

A curfew was imposed today in Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir, and parts of the city were patrolled by police and para-military units, PTI said.

In Kerala, where a Congress-led coalition is in power, shops were closed and private buses and taxis were off the roads in most parts of the state. A car was burned near a temple in central Kerala, PTI said.

In New Delhi, about 20 opposition supporters carrying anti-government placards gathered near the Parliament building to march to the presidential palace. They dispersed peacefully when challenged by the police.

In the two houses of parliament opposition members walked out for the fourth time since the Andhra Pradesh crisis erupted last week, after they failed to persuade the government to make a statement on the issue.

Mr. Lal and the head of the Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh, Madan Mohan, resigned yesterday. Observers said Mr. Lal's resignation was not surprising, though he continued to defend his dismissal of Mr. Rama Rao, in view of the crisis that had arisen. Congress Party sources here said that when Mr. Rama Rao was dismissed, Mr. Mohan had announced his support for the new state chief minister, Narendra Bhaskara Rao, without consulting Mrs. Gandhi.

New Governor Appointed for Andhra Pradesh

BK270440 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Aug 84

[Text] Mr Shankar Dayal Sharma has been appointed the new governor of Andhra Pradesh. He replaces Mr Ram Lal who has resigned. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] communique said that the appointment will take effect from the date he assumes office. It said the president has accepted the resignation of Mr Ram Lal.

Passengers, Crew of Hijacked Plane Safe in Delhi

BK260346 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Excerpts] The passengers and crew of the hijacked Indian Airlines plane are back in Delhi. All of them are safe. A special Indian Airlines aircraft carrying them landed at the Delhi Airport at about 0430 this morning. Visibly relieved but looking weary and exhausted after their harrowing ordeal, they were received by relatives and friends with tears of joy. The hijacked plane was also brought back to Delhi about 1/2 hour earlier.

According to the passengers, none of them on board was harmed except the copilot, Captain B.L. Ghai. The hijackers assaulted him and later tied him to a seat with a turban. The passengers said there were seven hijackers in all — four of them Sikhs and three clean shaven.

Talking to a team of All India Radio correspondents at the airport, the passengers said that at least on one occasion they nearly had a brush with death when Captain V.K. Mehta announced that the plane was running out of fuel and he would be making a crashing on the sea. This was the moment when even some of the hijackers themselves panicked, and at least one of them was seen being consoled by an air hostess. Eventually, however, the UAE authorities permitted the plane to land minutes before it ran completely out of fuel.

The passengers also told newsmen that initially the hijackers were brandishing round objects wrapped in newspapers, which they said were explosives. They also had objects looking like long needles used to sew gunnybags. Later, on the course of the journey they showed two pistols and a handful of bullets.

One of the crew members, Mr B.K. Mehta, for whom this was the third hijacking experience, said these hijackers seemed to be much more determined. All seven were young and spoke mostly in Punjabi. In Dubai, they were whisked away in a military vehicle as soon as they surrendered to the UAE authorities.

The passengers praised the pilot, Captain Mehta, for his tactful handling of the situation and said the crew members, particularly the air hostesses, showed exemplary patience and courage. Captain Mehta had also once before undergone the nightmare of experience of a hijack.

Weapons Confiscated From Hijackers

BK270316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Aug 84

[Text] The hijackers of the Indian Airlines Boeing plane are being interrogated by the security officials in Dubai. The police said that they confiscated one pistol, some daggers, two hand grenades, and an unspecified number of explosives. Seven hijackers surrendered themselves to authorities in Dubai yesterday after releasing all the passengers and the crew. As already reported, all the passengers and the crew of the hijacked plane returned to New Delhi yesterday morning.

Gandhi on Domestic, International Issues

BK251622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 84

[Text] The prime minister expressed her grave anxiety over the safety of the passengers of the hijacked plane. Mrs Gandhi told the parliamentary consultative committee for the External Affairs Ministry today that she is in touch with the developments.

Responding to the concern expressed by members over various developments, the prime minister said the so-called Khalistan movement is not gaining any strength among the emigrant Indian population abroad. Many people including Sikhs had spontaneously got in touch with Indian leaders and expressed their support for the action in Punjab.

Referring to members' observations about Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi said the government-controlled media in that country has been carrying on a relentless campaign against India. The press in India which is free is, however, showing greater restraint.

In her survey of the world situation, the prime minister said there have been disturbing developments internationally and regionally. The process of detente has broken down and the growing nuclear race is creating difficulties for the entire humanity. The Nonaligned Movement has made several moves to defuse critical situations like the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Mrs Gandhi referred to the talks with China scheduled for next month and said our relations with Beijing are under constant review.

Referring to members' observations on visits to South Africa, the prime minister said India is one of those countries which is maintaining a strict boycott of that country, But the large Indian community in South Africa is keen on maintaining cultural link with India. Therefore, permission is given to Indian artists on a selective basis to visit the country on a noncommercial basis.

Discusses Sri Lanka

BK251646 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 84

[Text] President Jayewardene has recently written to Mrs Gandhi that Mr G. Parthasarathy may visit Sri Lanka at an appropriate time. This was disclosed by the prime minister in the Lok Sabha today. She was replying to the special debate on the situation in Sri Lanka.

Mrs Gandhi welcomed President Jayewardene's reported acceptance of the proposal to set up provincial councils which will be an organic part of the second chamber. She described it as an improvement over the earlier proposal. She noted that this was welcomed by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party also. Mrs Gandhi hoped that this will be fully discussed in the all-party meeting.

Mrs Gandhi agreed with the members that the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka has been causing deep concern not only in India but in other countries also. According to latest information available with her, fresh killing of the people of Indian origin has

taken place. While we do not wish to say or do anything that will worsen the problem, we cannot keep indifferent. We want that repression and killing of the Tamil minority by security forces in Sri Lanka should be stopped. Every effort should be made to find a viable solution acceptable to all people.

Mrs Gandhi said we are doing everything possible to try to bring the people to the negotiating table by offering our good offices to Sri Lanka as a friendly neighbor. She has written to President Jayewardene and spoken to him on this issue. Mrs Gandhi said there are some elements which may be interested in worsening the situation so that there is cause for intervention from our side. We have to be very careful about it, she cautioned.

She strongly refuted the charge that India had planned an invasion on Sri Lanka in September last. She also denied that India is adopting a big brotherly attitude.

Referring to the presence of foreign security forces in Sri Lanka, Mrs Gandhi said it is dangerous. The induction of the Israeli intelligence agency, Mosad, is entirely different from India having an Israeli consulate in Bombay. The consulate, which had been closed, was only issuing visas to Indian Jews.

Taking part in the discussion, members from both sides of the house called for a political solution for the Sri Lankan Tamil problem. Expressing concern over the recent killings of Tamils in that country, they said these have acquired a new dimension because of the involvement of security forces.

Initiating it, Professor Madhu Dandavate, Janata, suggested that India as the chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement should bring maximum international pressure on the Sri Lankan Government to end the indiscriminate violence.

Affirms Election Schedule

BK260929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Talking to newsmen before her departure from Jamshedpur to Calcutta, Mrs Gandhi said that elections for the Lok Sabha will be held on time. When asked whether the Congress-I in Andhra Pradesh would continue to support the Bhaskara Rao ministry, she said that she has nothing more to say than what has already been said in Parliament.

Denies Ousting State Ministries

BK261625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, today inaugurated two TV transmitters. One at Adityapur in Jamshedpur and the other in Varanasi.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting at the grounds of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University at Varanasi, Mrs Gandhi emphatically denied the allegation that the center tried to topple governments formed by the opposition parties in different states. She said in some of the states the ruling parties were splitting and losing their majority. As a result, the government were changing there. She said this is nothing but a part of democracy.

Confirms Peaceful Nuclear Policy

BK220944 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Aug 84

[Text] The prime minister told the Lok Sabha today that India is committed to the use of nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes. No change in the policy is envisaged in spite of reports of Pakistan's attempts to acquire nuclear weapons. Answering a question, Mrs Gandhi said Pakistan having a nuclear bomb will not make much difference and several countries, like China, have these weapons which can destroy the whole world. The problem, therefore, has to be viewed in a larger context. India stands for disarmament and, as a first step, wants a freeze on the existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons and then gradual reduction of such weapons. The nuclear power states should come together and work how to achieve this end.

Answering a question, Mrs Gandhi said that several world leaders have welcomed the initiatives taken by six nations, including India, in issuing an appeal to end the nuclear arms race. The Soviet Union has also reacted positively. She said there is need to build up a people's movement for peace to pressurize even those governments which do not agree to nuclear disarmament. Already such a movement is gaining momentum in several countries. She said we want the parliamentarians and legislators in India and all over the world to lend support to this movement by joining in the appeal for ending the nuclear arms race. The 6-nation appeal was issued at the request of a nonofficial agency. Besides India, it was signed by Argentina, Mexico, Tanzania, Greece, and Sweden.

Earlier, replying to supplementaries, the prime minister told the House that the Essential Services Maintenance Act was invoked in the coal industry to check deterioration in law and order and to maintain the level of production. She said coal is vital for the key sectors of the economy.

All Atomic Power Plants Performing Well

BK251429 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Aug 84

[Text] All the Atomic Energy Department units in the country, including nuclear power stations and heavy water plants, have performed exceedingly well during the April-July period this year.

According to official sources in Bombay, reactors at Tarapur, Kota, and Kalpakkam worked almost without any shutdown and generated electricity valued at over 44.73 crore rupees during the 4 months.

AFP: Three Soldiers Killed in Nagaland

BK270913 Hong Kong AFP in English 0801 GMT 27 Aug 84

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Aug 27 (AFP) — Nagaland has become India's latest trouble spot as the Army today combs parts of the sensitive northeastern state after secessionist guerrillas shot dead three government soldiers over the weekend.

The Army operation, which follows unrest in Punjab and Kashmir, creats a fresh headache for Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at a time when she is facing a newly reinvigorated political opposition and a general election within four months.

A dawn-to-dusk curfew has been clamped on a cluster of 11 villages to flush out Naga separatists, an official spokesman said today in the state capital Kohima. The dead soldiers were on a routine patrol when they were ambushed at Kachai village in Ukhrul District by members of the outlawed national socialist council of Nagaland.

The guerrillas used automatic weapons and sprayed the Indian troops with bullets, killing three, including one junior officer, and injuring four others.

Major General V. K. Sood, general commanding officer in the area rushed to the spot as Army units started the combing operation. It was not immediately known if the attackers had been arrested.

Agreement on Increased Trade Signed With PRC

BK241712 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] India and China have agreed to work towards achieving $1 billion trade turnover in the next 5 years. An agreement to this effect was signed between the two countries during the visit of a high level official delegation to China. The first official delegation since the resumption of a bilateral trade in 1977 was led by the commerce secretary, Mr Abid Hussain. Mr Hussain told newsmen in New Delhi today that China's modernization program has opened up tremendous opportunity for India to supply technical knowhow, finished goods, and raw materials. With the signing of the most favored nation type of trade agreement, Indian exports will be entitled to preferential treatment.

AFGHANISTAN

Talks Begin in Geneva on Afghan Crisis

BK241614 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] The third round of UN-sponsored indirect talks on solving the Afghanistan crisis began in Geneva today. Diego Cordovez, the under secretary general and the UN representative at the indirect talks, was due to meet Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan this afternoon. Cordovez met with foreign minister of the Karmal administration, Shah Mohammad Dost, this morning.

Prior to the beginning of the third round of indirect talks, Cordovez said that highly complicated issues will come under discussion during the talks and the two concerned sides have to take solid decisions on them. He said that there are many factors which might influence the talks and so he cannot make any guess as to when a comprehensive politicai settlement of the Afghanistan issue can be achieved. In this context, he particularly mentioned the deteriorating international situation and the tense relations between the two big powers.

When asked whether the recent territorial violation of Pakistan by the Karmal administration's forces, which resulted in the death of innocent people, will have any effect on the Geneva talks, Cordovez said that it will be regrettable if the present difficult situation in the region is allowed to have any influence on the already difficult diplomatic process.

BANGLADESH

Reportage on Strike Called by Opposition Alliance

AFP: Ershad Regime Scored

BK250949 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 25 Aug 84

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 25 (AFP) — Bangladesh's two major opposition alliances combining 22 political parties have called for a half-day general strike on Monday to protest against the military regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

The strike call, already supported by other opposition parties and organisations, is expected to be the second major anti-government demonstration here in six months.

The 15-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina of Awami League and the seven-party combine headed by Begum Zia of BNP [Bangladesh National Party], both attack General Ershad's government as "illegal."

Gen. Ershad, who came to power by overthrowing the civilian government of Justice Sattar just after a presidential election in 1981, has formed a political party apparently hoping to maintain power in civilian form after an election. He has said that martial law could be lifted only after elections.

The alliances however insist that the parliamentary poll due on December 8 be held under a non-partisan and neutral government with martial law already lifted. They say that officials of the military regime should not vote in it.

Last March a strike similar to the one planned for Monday errupted into violence, claiming several lives and forcing the government to abandon its controversial plans for elections to new sub-districts scheduled that month.

In May opposition pressure forced Gen. Ershad to abandon plans for simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections.

Since then the alliances seem to have taken up a more hostile line against the military regime by scalating into total opposition to General Ershad's plans to civilianise his regime, political observers here say. They say they are not only trying to force the lifting of martial law but are trying to create deterrents against its reimposition.

General Ershad charges the alliances with being afraid to contest elections because of past misdeeds in government. He accused them of fanning violence at a time of danger from unprecedented floods, which have caused economic problems and disrupted life in the country.

Monday's half-day strike call has already generated political heat in the capital and other major towns. The past two weeks have seen groups parading Dhaka's streets chanting anti-government slogans and holding street-corner meetings in support of the strike.

Parties outside the alliances such as the right-wing Jamat-e-Islami have supported the strike call and the country's Higher Court Lawyers' Association has called on its members to boycott all courts on Sunday and Monday.

Student, Labour and other wings of the alliances are actively campaigning for the strike.

However the political party formed by the president did call off a "democracy day" planned for Monday "to avoid conflict and confrontation with the opposition," according to an announcement. The opposition had deemed democracy day a direct provocation and warned that violence would ensure if it was carried out.

AFP: Police Injured

BK270845 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 27 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Aug 27 (AFP) — Police fired over the heads of demonstrators attacking the headquarters of the government-backed Janadal Party here today, witnesses said. Three police were injured by stick-wielding demonstrators before they were dispersed, police said. One officer was hospitalised.

The violence erupted towards the end of a half-day general strike called by Bangladesh's 15-party and seven-party opposition alliances to protest the 29-month old military rule of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

The strike was widely observed in the capital and provincial cities, opposition sources said. Reliable sources in Chittagong said all port activity stopped there for the dawn to mid-day strike. Shops and markets were closed and almost all public transport was halted. Few private vehicles took to the streets until after the noon deadline passed.

A spokesman for the 15-party alliance described the mainly peaceful strike as a success. He told AFP it was "a popular demonstration" against the military rule of General Hussain Mohammad Ershad and backed opposition demands for an end to martial law before general elections in December, an interim neutral government and restoration of fundamental rights.

A police spokesman in Dhaka said that apart from the Janadal incident the strike had been peaceful and no untoward incidents reported. Riot police and paramilitary units were out in force to shadow anti-government demonstrators.

Delhi: Dhaka 'Paralyzed'

BK270952 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Aug 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, the general strike called to protest against martial law left Dhaka virtually paralyzed today. All shops are closed and no transport is moving. Police guarded key city points to prevent any clashes between opposition workers and government supporters.

Protest Lodged With India Over Alleged Killings

BK251434 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 25 Aug 84

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 25 (AFP) — Bangladesh has protested to India over the alleged killing of four Bangladesh citizens kidnapped from a border village, official sources said here today.

Press reports here have said four young villagers were kidnapped on August 12 inside Bangladesh by Indian nations backed by Indian Border Security Forces (BSF).

The villagers, from northeastern Sylhet District, were later killed, the reports said quoting local Bangladesh officials.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Prepared To Offer Tamils Amnesty

BK251044 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Aug 84

[Text] President Jayewardene said yesterday that he was prepared to offer a general amnesty to the Tamil separatists if they lay down their arms. In an interview with an Indian newspaper, *THE INDIAN EXPRESS*, Mr Jayewardene said that he would like to make arrangements for the Tamil militants to meet a Sri Lankan Government representative in a neutral country to discuss the terms of the amnesty.

Security Minister on Steps Against Terrorists

BK261215 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that we should retaliate if the terrorists launch attacks. It is useless advising certain unruly sections to eliminate violence. The government will not hesitate to take stern security measures against such elements. The minister was speaking at a function held at the Matara (Deharahena Purbaramaraja Mahavihara) yesterday. The minister pointed out that we could definitely eliminate terrorism and safeguard the people and unity of the country. We should face terrorism while safeguarding humanity. The determination to massacre the enemy is not correct. Such a measure was only a short-term solution. The Tamils were the most affected by the terrorist movement. The number of Tamils killed by terrorists is more than the number of soldiers killed by them. It was only after explaining this situation to the foreign media that they were able to understand the real situation.

Referring to the valuable services rendered by Dhamma [religious] schools, Mr Athulathmudali pointed out that the knowledge gained from the Dhamma schools will encourage to develop the character more than the knowledge acquired from books.

Delhi: Security Forces Burn 4 Houses in North

BK260432 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Text] At least four houses were set on fire yesterday at Achchuveli, north Sri Lanka, by security forces following an attempt by Tamil extremists to blow up an Army convoy. Sources said in Jaffna that the house of the acting magistrate of Mallakam District was also destroyed.

Youths With Terrorist Connections Released

BK251104 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Aug 84

[Text] Nineteen youths [word indistinct] who have had connection with northern terrorists and kept at the Galle camp were released this morning. The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, visited at the camp this morning to inquire into the welfare of the suspected youths who were taken into custody following their alleged connections with terrorist activities at Velvettithurai.

The released youths are due to leave for their home town tomorrow. They have pledged to the minister to provide information to the government on terrorist activities in the north.

TULF Leader Encourages Visit of Gandhi Envoy

BK261640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front leader, Mr Amirthalingam, has said another visit of Mrs Gandhi's special envoy, Mr Parthasarathy, to Sri Lanka will help achieve a breakthrough in resolving the ethnic problem.

He told the PTI in Madras that Mr Parthasarathy, who initiated the process, may be able to find a solution.

He was reacting to President Jayewardene's letter to the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, that Mr Parthasarathy may visit Sri Lanka at an appropriate time.

Minister Says No Policy Change Toward Arabs, PLO

BK261205 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Text] Transport Minister M.H. Mohamed declared in Nuwara Eliya yesterday that there was no change in Sri Lankan policy toward the Arab nations and the Palestine Liberation Organization. He said that the government would continue to support them locally and internationally at all levels. Mr Mohamed was speaking at a function held at the Nuwara Eliya town hall after he distributed 143 travel passes to Dhamma [religious] school teachers in the district. The minister said that Sri Lanka could not afford to ignore the Arab nations which have been providing financial assistance and employment opportunities to Sri Lanka and, at the same time, supplying the country with oil it needed, and purchasing Sri Lankan tea.

Referring to the free travel passes to religious leaders, the minister said that the scheme was introduced to bring about good law-abiding citizens.

Ayatollah Khomeyni 26 Aug Speech to Officials

LD261404 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni during a meeting with Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, and members of the Cabinet in Tehran on 26 August; recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. While congratulating the gentlemen on their success in obtaining a vote of confidence from the Majlis, I would like to congratulate them on government week. You are aware that from the very beginning, I asked you to bring the people into the picture and inform them of your achievements. When you do something in Sistan, for instance, the rest of the country may know nothing about it. You should let the people know of your countless services. Do not be modest in doing something for fear that, God forbid, it might have undesirable consequences. Now the whole world has armed itself against you, against your rule, and, in fact, against Islam. They are looking for some issue to exaggerate to use as propaganda against you. One excuse they might find to say is: "This government has done nothing for the people." You remember they say this about several individuals, accusing them of doing nothing for the people. Of course, some of what they say is true, but the people should realize what the government has done for them. It was usual that the government, from the start of its term, would inform the people of all its work and the people would realize its achievements. Now, on the occasion of government week, you must pay more attention to this issue; the gentlemen — three from each ministry each day — should tell the people about their achievements and how they managed to serve the public despite countless problems during the past few years. Then the people will appreciate the government's achievements. This is one of the issues that we neglected, and we must make up for it.

Another issue is that you know that it was the people who established this government and this republic — not all the people, only the barefoot masses. The burden has been on the shoulder of the bazaaris, the middle class, and the oppressed. That is, this deprived strata have shouldered the burden of the revolution. If you remember demonstrations of the people, pouring into streets in the era of the former regime, and shortly afterwards in the early days of the revolution, you realize the part played by the upper class who lived in comfort. If anyone had maintained a record of those events, he could tell us how many members of the upper class and oppressed masses took part at the demonstrations. It was the oppressed who participated in the marches; therefore, your government is the government of the deprived, and it should work for the deprived masses.

Among the issues which I deem necessary to raise is this: You are aware and have often considered that without the support of the people, the government would not be able to work. That is, only those governments which are not working for the people can continue working without the people's support. Those governments did not want to serve their people; they only wanted to serve their masters, and they were prepared for that purpose. They did not care what was happening in Baluchestan, Kerman or other places. But you who wish to serve the people, you should realize that a government of limited power cannot do the work of 40 million people. This government should maintain the presence of the 40 million on the scene. By maintaining their presence I mean if you wish to maintain [the support of] the bazaar, then you should let it participate in matters. You should not discard the bazaar. In other words, if the bazaar is incapable of doing something, then the government should do that job. But if the bazaar is quite capable of doing something, do not prevent it. This is not legal by shari'a regulations either. The people should not be deprived of their freedom. The government should supervise. For instance, in importing goods from abroad, the people should be left free to import as far as possible. Such goods should be imported both by the people and by the government. But the government should supervise and make sure that goods which are harmful to the interests of the Islamic Republic and to the shari'a are not imported. This is called supervision, meaning that you should not allow them to saturate the bazaar with luxuries and other similar goods, which was common in the past. But, if you were to refuse to allow the people to share with you in trade, industry and similar things, you would not succeed. In other words, it will not be possible to work for a large population without the participation of its members. It is like expecting the government to engage in farming directly. Of course the government cannot do farming. The government should approve a policy for agriculture and let the farmers do the job.

It is the same for trade and industry. For those industries which are beyond the capabilities of the people, the government should naturally step in. The government should do those tasks which are beyond the means and capabilities of the people. The public should be allowed to participate in those jobs which can be performed by both the government and the public sector. Both of you should do such jobs and you should maintain supervision in order to prevent deviations. For instance they [the public sector] might import goods which are opposed by Islam and are harmful to the interests of the Islamic Republic. This in my view is a very important issue. I have often stressed it, and the gentlemen have promised to bear it in mind. Yet I am not aware of the extent to which they have kept their promises in practice. However, this is a very important issue and we should know what to do.

The other point which I should mention is: The gentlemen who have now managed to get a vote of confidence from the Majlis should feel that their responsibility has increased, for the voting was good; this was an impressive vote by the Majlis. I should thank the Majlis for this act. Now they should try to maintain the support of the people. One way to achieve this is for the ministries and departments to behave in such a manner as not to create dissatisfaction. It seems appropriate to have a few people in each ministry, people assigned by the president or, say, the prime minister, so that if there are complaints in such ministries or department these individuals would report the complaints to them. The objective would be to see to it that nothing untoward took place in the ministries.

You know that we inherit things from a person and a regime under whom — apart from a few — all those in departments were solely concerned with their own interests. There are still some of these individuals in the Islamic Republic — we cannot deny that, they are everywhere. It is possible that such individuals aim to cause dissatisfaction among the people. What better way than to

cause dissatisfaction among the people in the various departments? For instance, they might fail to deal with people's problems when they come to these departments. For example, they might keep referring people to others and passing them around. I am not saying this is the case. However, you ought to be careful, lest this happen. Consequently, it would be better to carry out this thing [having the president's or prime minister's representatives in various ministries], so that the people would know that there is a source on whom they can call should they come across a counterrevolutionary in a department who might try to interfere with things. This will have the added bonus of preventing certain things taking place.

We need the people, at any rate. That is, the Islamic Republic will always need the people. It was these people who helped the Islamic Republic to reach this stage. It is these same people, too, who must move the Republic to the end. Therefore, it is up to you, gentlemen, up to your ministries and your departments,to keep the people satisfied. They can also operate in such a way as to have dissatisfied people — God forbid — in them. You must act decisively. You have not promised to keep individuals who have been working in these ministries in the past, despite the fact that they are counterrevolutionary. Sack them, only of course, in the case of those who are counterrevolutionary. However, if there are people who have done something unwittingly, then you should guide them and encourage them to get on with their duties and avoid causing dissatisfaction.

At any rate, we ought to adhere to the objective, which is to keep the people with us. As the gentlemen themselves admit, one cannot achieve anything without the people's support. By support, one does not mean the utterance of 'God is Great' by the people. This is no support.

Support means cooperation. By cooperation we mean cooperation in trade. That is, you should give them the opportunity to cooperate. Once you give them such an opportunity, then the people will help you. It is not true to think that the bazaar is (?corrupt) from top to bottom, that it is made up of corrupt individuals. Obviously, there are some corrupt individuals in the bazaar, there are some self-seeking individuals there. It is quite obvious. However, there are many correct, religious, and skilled people in the bazaar as well.

As for the majority of the bazaar tradesmen, they are not offenders. Certainly there are some. All in all, they are not offenders. You can find some corrupt individuals in any society. Having said that, we must therefore give them the opportunity. You should act as you do in the field of agriculture, where you provide support while they [farmers] get on with the job. You simply support. In these other matters, where the people themselves can do the job, support means that they should do the job. If this procedure is applied, then both the capital which they might not have invested may be invested in the bazaar and [word indistinct] also the people who are under the impression that the Islamic Republic has no intention of working for the people will realize this is not so. Furthermore, those who live abroad, who are counterrevolutionary but have been frightened away groundlessly [sentence left unfinished]. What I mean is that foreign propaganda has frightened these poor people; propaganda saying: Do not ever go to Iran, for as soon as you arrive there the Guards will immediately capture you and do things to you. This is the sort of propaganda which is being put forward throughout the world against us. We must do something to foil it. We cannot challenge them by means of propaganda, for we have rather limited propaganda, whereas they enjoy unlimited propaganda resources. They control the world and their propaganda knows no bounds.

Meanwhile, we must tell all governments to abandon the idea of coming here once again and gaining something. The fact is that the world can no longer accept this; the state of the world is such that it can no longer accept seeing everyone becoming slaves, while a few act as masters. This is not possible. It is not possible for France, the USSR and a couple of others to act as masters for a lifetime, while everybody else, other nations, follows them and takes orders from them. These sorts of things are over. They must rehabilitate themselves, realizing that the time is over when they could go on as they did. When this was possible the situation in the world was different; now the world has changed, certain developments have occurred.

Iran has proved that it is possible to resist everything. We noted that they [Iranians in exile] are sitting there, spreading corruption and causing explosions or firing firecrackers. They must realize that these things have no effect any longer. The only result will be that the people's hatred will grow stronger against them. No matter how hard they try to exonerate themselves, the people will still point their finger at them, saying it is the hypocrites or the monarchists and such. Why should you live in a situation in which every act is attributed to you? You keep sitting there claiming that the people are with you, that you are such and such and that the people must do this or that, and eventually issuing orders to the people. These are childish utterances. After all, you fled Iran. As for France, it is supporting you. (?Sit there in France) and other places and [word indistinct.] Needless to say, what they say is simply rhetoric; I do not believe they are so ignorant as to believe that all of Iran is counting the days until their return, that Iranians are sending them "love letters" [sound of laughter]. Indeed, they do know all these things. Nevertheless, in order to appeal to their sympathy, these people keep making such claims and proposing such projects in order to (?satisfy) them. If this is so, then let them do it and God may [word indistinct]. [laughter]

I do hope that all of you will be successful. I hope that you will continue to serve the deprived people who have already served you. By serving, I mean that you will involve the bazaar merchants in the activities of the bazaar, safeguard small industry, and accomplish the things which only the government can accomplish and others cannot and should not do. I wish you all success. God bless you all.

Musavi Issues Circular on Khomeyni's Guidelines

LD262217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Text] Following the important guidelines provided by the imam of the nation during his meeting with the Cabinet today, the following was issued by Mr. Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, addressed to all executive organs of the country:

In his exalted name, considering the guidelines provided to the Cabinet by the esteemed leader in his gracious speech at today's meeting, and since the serving government emulates the imam and intently awaits his prophet-like orders, as a small drop in the great ocean of the noble nation of Iran, the following recommendations are communicated to all executive organs: It is necessary that these recommendations be given careful consideration in current and future policies and plans. Officials in charge of organizations should bring their activities to the attention of the people in a careful, orderly manner without exaggeration. These organs should not be fearful of being accused of being deceitful. They can be assured that news of their achivements would please the committed people of our country and displease the enemies of the Islamic Republic.

The trend towards creating confidence in investments in the private sector within the frakework of Islamic regulations should be speeded up. Repeated short-term adjustments in regulations which results in loss of confidence in investments should be refrained from. Necessary measures should be taken to ensure the liquidity of the private sector for carrying out profit-making production and developmental activities. Especial importance should be placed on the participation of committed and faithful tradesmen in importing nonstrategic goods. The Ministry of Commerce, continuing the steps already taken in this respect, should adjust its future plans according to the guidelines given by the imam, may God extend his shadow, with greater speed and should explain these plans to the people. Officials in charge of ministries should carefully follow what the imam has reiterated concerning the deprived people and should ensure their comfort in different stages of manufacture and distribution of goods. All officials and especially dear colleagues in the Cabinet should make every effort to prove the government worthy of the title of government of the deprived in the presence of the imam of themartyr-nurturing.

[Signed] Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

No 1,829

LD241636 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced in its 1,829th communique issued today that an enemy patrol group intending to infiltrate Iranian defensive positions was forced to retreat by the fire of the Islamic combatants in Panjwin region during the preceding 24 hours.

In the northwestern fronts of Panjwin, Marivan, and Hajj 'Umran, the Iranian artillery units opened fire on Iraqi positions demolishing several personnel and weaponry positions and killing or wounding ten Iraqis.

In the western fronts, the Islamic combatants silenced Iraqi fire and halted their engineering activities and movement of vehicles by zeroing in on the enemy positions and logistic roads with artillery and mortar. Seven positions and one truck carrying personnel were smashed in this region.

In Abadan and Khorramshahr operational regions, the Islamic combatants targetted Iraqi positions west of the Arvand River as a result of which the activities of Iraqi personnel engaged in constructing bunkers, embankments and roads along Al-Faw-Basra axis were prevented and a vehicle equipped with 106-mm gun, one drilling vehicle, eight group and individual bunkers and two observation posts of the enemy were knocked out.

Parts of Abadan were under sporadic fire of Iraqi long-range fire on Thursday during which seven houses and three shops were damaged and fire broke out in two cases, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

No 1,830

LD251714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Aug 84

[Communique No 1,830 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday, on the northwestern operational region, the fighting forces of Iran opened heavy-weapons fire on enemy positions, troops, and vehicles resulting in the destruction of 15 weapon emplacements and observation posts of the Saddamist mercenaries and the death of 25 Iraqi soldiers.

On the western operational region, exchanges of fire and scattered confrontations between our patrol groups and those of the enemy continued and on each front a number of Iraqi forces were either killed or wounded. Our combat units opened fire on various enemy vehicles, supply routes, and positions in this region disrupting or halting their operations. Visible damage inflicted on the enemy on the western operational region includes the destruction of a truck, one mortar, and five slit trenches, foxholes, and observation posts.

In the southern operational region, the combatants of Islam fortified and established their defensive positions and carried out their missions.

On the banks of the Arvand Rud, our forces maintained their supremacy of fire over the forces of the enemy, destroying seven weapon emplacements belonging to the aggressors situated west of the river and damaging their communication channels.

No 1,831

LD261727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Communique No 1,831 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, exchanges of fire continued on most of the fronts. On every front, while repelling enemy movements, the combatants of Islam dealt effective blows to the enemy. In the Hajj 'Umran sector, one of our patrol groups penetrated enemy defensive sectors and captured a considerable amount of light ammunition. In the Nosud sector, an enemy unit, enjoying heavy artillery support, attempted an offensive on our

forces' defensive positions; the mighty combatants of Islam returned fire, kept enemy activities under control, and with timely reaction repelled enemy movements and forced the Iraqi forces to retreat after they had suffered losses and casualties.

In the Sumar sector, the activities of an enemy patrol group were crushed and the Iraqi patrol group was brought under the heavy fire of our forces and suffered casualties.

On the southern fronts, the Zayd and Zubaydat sectors were the scenes of the heaviest clashes. During an exchange of fire on the Arvand Rud front, gendarmerie combatants returned enemy fire, brought enemy positions and military installations under fire, silencing enemy fire, disrupted the movement of enemy vehicles on the Al-Faw-Basra axis, killed or injured a number of enemy personnel and destroyed 13 trenches, observation posts and two vehicles of the Saddamite mercenaries.

Panamanian Tanker Hit by Missile East of Qatar

LD271117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Aug 84

[Text] According to news agency reports, a Panamanian oil tanker was hit this morning by a missile 70 miles east of Qatar. Shipping sources say that a minor fire broke out in the tanker, but that it is under control. However, the tanker's captain has reported that he is unable to steer the vessel properly. The same sources added that a ship belonging to the U.S. forces, 50 miles away from the Panamanian tanker, has offered assistance to the tanker.

It should be pointed out that 2 days ago a Cypriot oil tanker was hit by Saddam's missiles in the Persian Gulf and caught fire.

'Exocet Missile Deflector' Built by Construction Jihad

LD241914 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 24 Aug 84

["Exocet Missile Deflector Built by Construction Jihad" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran P.R., Aug 24, IRNA — The Construction Jihad [CJ] has built a device which deflects Exocet missiles aimed at oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, the CJ minister, Bijan Zanganeh said today.

Speaking at the Friday prayers here, the minister said the effectiveness of the device had caused a row between France, which builds the missiles, and the Iraqi regime.

Majlis Speaker Hashemi- Rafsanjani and member of the Council of Guardians Imam Kashani recently disclosed Iran's attempts to fool the Exocet missiles from hitting their real targets.

The said only a fraction of the missiles had been able to cripple ships and oil tankers loading at Iran's ports and terminals in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf.

Zanganeh said the CJ had built more than 25,000 kms of gravel roads in the rural areas of the country since its establishment five years ago. It had also electrified 2,000 villages and provided 1,500 with drinking water in the past Iranian year (ended March 20).

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sermon on Red Sea Mines

GF241724 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran Friday Imam ad interim and Majlis speaker, during Friday prayers at Tehran University on 24 August — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you, O Muslim brothers. Muslims must have heard of the furor that was recently provoked in the Suez Canal. On the threshold of the month of Dhi al-Hijja and the pilgrimage in Mecca, and at a time when the imposed 4-year-old war has made Saddam Husayn's downfall imminent, we are witnessing terrible and aritifically-provoked events in the Suez Canal [Qanat as-Suways] and the Red Sea. The truth of the matter and the cause and objective of those events have not so far been made manifest. The truth or falsehood of these events has not yet been proved. The issue is shrouded with mystery. There are secret hands behind the scenes. The only clear fact in the whole matter is that Western imperialism is exploiting these events to intervene in the area and to maintain a presence in strategically important points in the region and is spreading venomous propaganda against the countries that are hostile to international oppression and arrogance.

Suddenly they announced that several ships have struck mines in the Suez Canal and were damaged as a result. They then directed their accusations against the bastion of revolution and steadfastness in the face of infidelity and arrogance — Islamic Iran. The Egyptians treacherously detained two Iranian ships on the pretext of searching them. In all this, Western information media relied on a telephone call made by an unknown person who claimed to be a member of the Islamic Jihad Organization and claimed that the organization is responsible for planting 190 mines in the Suez Canal. In view of the fact that in the past an organization by the same name had claimed responsibility for actions directed against imperialist interests — and that organization used to declare its support for the Islamic Republic of Iran — and in view of the fact that another Islamic organization in Egypt has a similar name and acts against the interests of the oppressors, the trumpets of the oppressors' media have exploited such matters to harm the international reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These propaganda trumpets have also exploited a remark by an irresponsible person [shakh ghayr mas'ul] that was accidently broadcast by Tehran radio's Arabic service. The remark implicitly supported the operation [of planting mines]. Following the categorical official denials by the Islamic Republic of Iran of any connection with these incidents, they accused Libya of being involved in the incidents and accused it of being responsible for the explosions. Egyptian officials supported such slanderous claims with certain reservations.

Citing officials at Hamburg University, DPA recently reported that it is possible that the alleged mines may have been the remains of explosives used by Hamburg University in the past when it was carrying out research in the Suez Canal. If this is true, why then did the Hamburg University authorities not say so from the first day instead of waiting until the Western media achieved their desired objectives? We do not know; perhaps some other explanations for the case will be fabricated in the future.

In this farce of creating tension and undermining security, we see that the minesweepers of the United States, Britain, France, and Italy — the countries whose forces cooperated in invading Lebanon where they were dealt a heavy blow by Lebanon's Muslims, a blow that compelled them to flee Lebanon in disgrace — have now all converged toward this vital waterway. What is strange is that the more they search the further they are from achieving any results. According to sarcastic reports cited by their information media, they have found garbage but no mines. Perhaps in the future they will falsely claim that they have found one mine in order to save face — or perhaps they will find a mine. In any case, we must wait until their real aims are clear.

The Muslims of the area must be vigilant to foil any conspiratorial plan in the region. If their objective is to reoccupy the Suez Canal and obliterate the struggle waged by the Egyptian people under Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's leadership, then they must be taught the same lesson they were given in Lebanon so as to compel them to flee in disgrace. However, if their objective is to exert pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran to save Saddam Husayn and the 'Aflaqi party from their inevitable and imminent fate, then it is necessary to exert further pressure on them so that they will give up such a dream. If their objective is to overshadow the politico-religious rites of the pilgrimage and to suppress the voice of the pilgrims led by the Iranian pilgrims who raise the slogan of "Death to the International Oppressors and Israel," then the determination to raise antioppressor, anti-Zionist, and antireactionary slogans must be greater. If their objective is to reassure their agents in the region — foremost among whom are the rulers of Egypt, the YAR, Sudan, and other countries — then the mass struggle against the agents of international arrogance must be redoubled.

In any case, matters must be closely watched, plots must be confronted with full alertness, and the enemies of Islam must be prevented from achieving their malicious objectives. Mubarak's gang in Egypt must be warned in the future so that it will not take such stands again. It is a disgrace for Muslims — it is a great disgrace that exposes the nature of governments that allow the passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal while they pursue and inspect the ships of the two Muslim countries of Iran and Libya.Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

IRNA: Red Sea Mine Search Operations Fail

LD270823 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 27 Aug 84

[Mine Search Operations Fail — IRNA headline]

[Text] Mecca, Aug. 27, IRNA — Despite the unrelenting efforts of Saudi Arabia with the help of the U.S. and the French fleet, no mines have been found in the Red Sea.

Informed sources announced the search operations were nearing completion in Saudi Arabia's coastal area of the Red Sea.

The *ARAB NEWS* daily, printed in Saudi Arabia, wrote that the U.S. aircraft carrier *America* would arrive in the Red Sea, but would not be active in this endeavour. It is due to arrive in a few days.

President Meets IRGC Officials, Envoys

LD261327 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 26 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 26 IRNA — The minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Rafiqdust, IRGC commander, Mohsen Reza'i, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Araqi, Imam Khomeyni's deputy representative to the IRGC, met with the president and head of the Supreme Defence Council, 'Ali Khamene'i, Sunday morning.

During the meeting, Khamene'i was presented with a report on the general status of the IRGC.

In a separate meeting Sunday, Hojjat ol-Eslams Aminian and Sedqi , Iran's ambassadors to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Sierra Leone respectively, met the president. The Iranian ambassadors conveyed warm greetings from the presidents of the two countries to President Khamene'i and said that they were willing to expand their relations with Iran.

Interior Minister: No Clear Evidence in Bombing

LD241735 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 24 Aug 84

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Pr., Aug. 25, IRNA — There is yet no clear evidence linking a group to Thursday's bombing in downtown Tehran, Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here today.

But Nateq-Nuri said a monarchist group or the Munafiqeen (MKO) may have been responsible for the explosion which martyred 18 people, including 2 children, and injured 300 others.

"This savage act may have been the work of monarchist groups and rightist currents in support of the August 19 (1953 CIA coup) or Munafiqeen groups."

"Whatever group that has carried out this ignorant act, it has followed a blind objective," he said.

Speaking to IRNA upon his arrival in Rasht, the interior minister stressed that those behind the bombing should know that these acts would not keep the people from following the Islamic Revolution led by Imam Khomeyni.

Later in the Friday prayers here, Nateq-Nuri said in a speech before the main sermons that the big powers had made a big mistake in assessing the Islamic Revolution.

"All their conspiracies have actually had a reverse effect and the Islamic state is advancing with ever-increasing stability and strength."

Officials Inspect Areas of Fath Operations
LD250731 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 25 Aug 84

[Text] Urumiyeh, Aug. 25, IRNA — The governor and district governor, along with a number of officials of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Piranshahr, inspected some of the newly mopped up villages in Piranshah-Sar-Dasht axis, West Azarbaijan.

The victorious Fath operations are continuing in Piranshah-Sar-Dasht area and the Mahabad axis by Islamic combatants.

The visiting officials were warmly welcomed in Mishdeh village and addressing the inhabitants, the governor of Piranshah said that now that (the area) was freed from the yoke of splinter groups, they should try to root out poverty and deprivation of the region with the aid of officials under Islamic unity.